

understand the plight of the human condition, which we do in America—that people must have hope, that everybody matters, that freedom counts—we can achieve peace in this world.

Oh, you'll hear a lot of war rhetoric. But I want you to know, my goal is peace. I long for peace. And I believe out of the evil done to America can come peace in places around the world that have quit on peace, including the Middle East and South Asia. I also want you to know—I want you to know that we will be a better America, too, because the strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens.

People say, “How can I help on this war against terror? How can I fight evil?” You can do so by mentoring a child, by going into a shut-in's house and say, “I love you,” by running a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop, by being involved in your Boys and Girls Clubs, by joining the USA Freedom Corps. If you're interested in helping America fight evil, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

An educated America, a working America, an America that understands the power of our faith-based and charitable organizations is an America that is going to be a better America. There is no question in my mind that out of the evil done to this country, that we will be able to help eradicate those pockets of despair and hopelessness which exist. In our land of plenty, there are people who hurt, people who cry, people who wonder whether or not the American Dream is meant for them. And this society of ours, this society of ours is going to change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time, because thousands of our fellow citizens are loving a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

People understand in America now that a patriot is somebody who not only puts his hand over his heart and says, “I pledge allegiance to one Nation under God,” but somebody who serves something greater than themselves.

See, that was the example of Flight 93, an example which is vivid in my mind and, I'm sure, vivid in yours. It's an historic moment in many ways, a sad, tragic moment. On the other hand, it's a moment that I hope

people remember for a long time. After all, it was a flight full of our fellow citizens. They learned that the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye, or, “I love you.” They said a prayer. One guy said, “Let's roll.” They drove the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

No, the spirit of America was alive on that airplane. The spirit of America is alive today. No, out of the evil done to this great country is going to come a more compassionate, a more decent, a more hopeful country. There's no doubt in my mind that we can achieve the big goals before us, because this is the finest country on the face of the Earth, full of the finest people.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:53 p.m. at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John G. Rowland of Connecticut; Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado; President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of Forces in Response to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11**

*September 20, 2002*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

On September 24, 2001, I reported the deployment of various combat-equipped and combat support forces to a number of locations in the Central and Pacific Command areas of operations. On October 9, 2001, I reported the beginning of combat action in Afghanistan against terrorists and their Taliban supporters. In my report to the Congress of March 20, 2002, I provided supplemental information on the deployment of combat-equipped and combat support forces to a number of foreign nations in the Central and Pacific Command areas of operations. As a part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed, I am reporting further on U.S. efforts in the global war on terrorism.

Our efforts in Afghanistan have met with success, but as I have stated in my previous reports, the U.S. campaign against terrorism will be lengthy. To date, U.S. Armed Forces, with the assistance of numerous coalition partners, have executed a superb campaign to eliminate the primary source of support to the terrorists who viciously attacked our Nation on September 11, 2001. The heart of the al-Qaida training capability has been seriously degraded. The Taliban's ability to brutalize the Afghan people and to harbor and support terrorists has been virtually eliminated. Pockets of al-Qaida and Taliban forces remain a threat to U.S. and coalition forces and to the Afghan government. What is left of both the Taliban and the al-Qaida fighters is being pursued and engaged by U.S. and coalition forces.

Due to our success in Afghanistan, we have detained several hundred al-Qaida and Taliban fighters who are believed to pose a continuing threat to the United States and its interests. The combat-equipped and combat support forces deployed to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, in the Southern Command area of operations since January 2002, continue to conduct secure detention operations. We currently hold approximately 550 enemy combatants at Guantanamo. All are being treated humanely and, to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the principles of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

In furtherance of our worldwide efforts against terrorists who pose a continuing and imminent threat to the United States, our friends and allies, and our forces abroad, we continue to work with the Government of the Philippines to protect U.S. and Philippine citizens and to defeat international terrorism in the Philippines. The combat-equipped and combat support forces that were deployed to the Philippines in January 2002 to train with, advise, and assist the Armed Forces of the Philippines made great progress in enhancing the Philippine government's counterterrorist capabilities. United States forces have reduced their presence in the Southern Philippines, but will continue a long-term effort to assist the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Additionally, we are conducting maritime interception operations in the Central and European Command areas of responsibility to deny the high seas as a haven for moving, arming, or financing international terrorists.

Combat-equipped and combat support forces also have been deployed to Georgia and Yemen to assist their armed forces in enhancing their counterterrorism capabilities, including by training and equipping their armed forces. We continue to assess options for working with other nations to assist them in this respect.

I have taken these actions pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. In addition, these actions are consistent with Public Law 107-40. As I stated in my previous reports, it is not possible to know at this time either the duration of combat operations or the scope and duration of the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces necessary to counter the terrorist threat to the United States. I will direct additional measures as necessary to exercise our right to self-defense and to protect U.S. citizens and interests. Such measures may include short notice deployments of special operations and other forces for sensitive operations in various locations throughout the world.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution and Public Law 107-40. Officials of my Administration and I have been communicating regularly with the leadership and other Members of Congress, and we will continue to do so. I appreciate the continuing support of the Congress in our effort to protect the security of the United States of America and its citizens, civilian and military, here and abroad.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

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## **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### ***September 14***

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD.

### ***September 15***

During the day, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

### ***September 16***

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia to discuss the situation in Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Davenport, IA, where, upon arrival at Quad City International Airport, he met with volunteer Dean Claussen. Later, he toured facilities at the Sears Manufacturing Co.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, in the Roosevelt Room at the White House, he received former President Theodore Roosevelt's Medal of Honor from members of the Roosevelt family, to join President Roosevelt's Nobel Peace Prize on display in the room.

### ***September 17***

In the morning, the President traveled to Nashville, TN.

In the afternoon, at East Literature Magnet School in Nashville, he participated in a Pledge Across America recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rickey Dale James (civilian/civil engineer representative) and Nicholas Augustus Prah (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration representative) to be Commissioners of the Mississippi River Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Arthur James Collingsworth to be

a member of the National Security Education Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate John L. Morrison to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Portman Higgins to be Inspector General of the Department of Education.

### ***September 18***

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President met with members of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

During the day, the President met with Members of Congress in the Cabinet Room to discuss the situation in Iraq.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner at the White House with President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic and his wife, Olga Havlova.

The President announced his appointment of the following individuals as members of the National Infrastructure Advisory Committee: Richard K. Davidson (Chairman); Alfred R. Berkeley III; Martin G. McGuinn; Richard M. Kovacevich; L. George Martinez; Charles O. Holliday, Jr.; Margaret Grayson; John W. Thompson; Thomas E. Noonan; George H. Conrades; Craig R. Barrett; Enrique Hernandez, Jr.; Maynard G. Webb; Erle Nye; Marilyn Ware; Archie W. Dunham; Donald John Carty; Thomas H. Weidemeyer; Linwood H. Rose; William F. Owens; Jorge Santini; Raymond W. Kelly; Gilbert G. Gallegos; and Karen Katen.

### ***September 19***

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to discuss the Prime Minister's visit to North Korea and the situation in Iraq. He then had a telephone conversation with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines to discuss the situation in Iraq and cooperation against terrorism. He also had a telephone conversation with President Aleksander